



Fall 2003

The Power of Developmental Assets

*By Dawn Johnson, Family Home
Licensor, Bremerton*

Developmental Assets offers training programs for school districts, child care providers, parents and community partners in Kitsap County*. Developmental assets are identified building blocks targeted at youth from infancy to age 18 that help them grow into healthy, positive, caring, responsible young adults.

The intention is to create a movement focused on what's right with a child, their strengths, and ways adults and older children can leverage those strengths to take them to a higher level of achievement and performance. The idea is to keep raising the bar with positive interactions and expectations. Children will work really hard for people who believe in them.

Forty specific developmental assets have been identified. There are simple, straightforward instructions to assist child care providers, family members, teachers, health care providers, and others to ensure the children in their lives maintain the assets they already possess and develop new ones during the course of their day.

Surveys conducted since the training began indicate that the more assets youth have the more empowered they are to independently protect themselves from harmful choices. They are able to make more appropriate and positive



choices suited to their own best interests.

Research conducted in communities that consistently employ developmental assets with the children they serve notes a decline in alcohol use, illicit drug use and violence rates among community youth. The research further demonstrates that children with more assets in their lives experience greater success in school, maintain healthier behaviors and lifestyle choices, and exhibit more positive attitudes.

As a licensor I am most impressed with the simplicity of the materials and the ease with which they are put to use. Licensors can share the materials with providers. Providers can share them with parents.

Using the materials will facilitate consistency between families and child care settings. Individual pages list asset building activities based on the developmental levels of children and can be placed on the refrigerator, inside

a cupboard door, near the phone and practiced with very little effort.

The results, however, can be astonishing. The impact of this training on the abilities of young children to

(Continued on page 2)

Page LINK

- 2 From the Director – Revisions to Child Care Licensing Rules
- 3 New Service for Providers Coming in Fall
- 4 Child Care and Migrant Farm Workers in North Central Washington
- 5 Everett DCCCL Collaborates on Week of the Young Child
- 6 Melanie Brown Wins National Preschool Award

The Power of Developmental Assets

(Continued from page 1)

assert themselves, live by the golden rule, say no to peer pressure, speak out against bullying and violence, and recognize and avoid dangerous behaviors and situations, is incredible.

In Kitsap County, all of the school districts practice developmental assets as well. The Kitsap County Commission on Children and Youth has an ad hoc committee, "It's Time for Kitsap Kids," which has presented training for approximately 60 percent of the county's family home child care providers as a STARS offering at re-orientation classes. Over 6,000 people in Kitsap County have participated in the training and can incorporate "random acts of asset building" into their daily interactions with children.

Clay Roberts, the national trainer, offers a six-hour class several times per year in Kitsap County. It is inspirational, enriching and a lot of fun. The cost is \$15, which includes lunch. I feel that all licensors and providers would benefit from this training and encourage you to attend. You may call Gay Neal at (360) 337-4879 to obtain information on upcoming training opportunities. Roberts is also available for conferences.

*Kitsap County is in the Southwest DCCEL Region.

Olympia LINK

*By Rachael Langen, Director
of the Division of Child Care
and Early Learning*

Revisions to Child Care Licensing Rules – "Minimum Licensing Requirements"

Centers – After several years of effort and collaboration with our stakeholders and constituents, the revision of the Minimum Licensing Requirements (MLRs) for Child Care Centers is complete. The new rules were effective Aug. 1, 2003. Chapter 388-150 WAC has been repealed and is replaced by Chapter 388-295 WAC. This revision is due in part to Gov. Gary Locke's mandate that all rules be written in a clear, understandable manner. Rules must be enforceable and meaningful.

During the revision process, we have involved stakeholders from the provider community, children's health and safety, and licensing field staff. We have accepted and implemented their suggestions when they were in line with the division's overall vision. This includes maintaining the health, safety and early learning opportunities of children, while at the same time being enforceable.

I truly appreciate the input, assistance and cooperation that all of you have provided to my staff as they accomplished this daunting task.

Family Homes – Division staff are now beginning the rewrite of the MLRs for the family home child care rules, Chapter 388-155 WAC. This chapter must also be rewritten to meet the Governor's mandate for clear, understandable program rules.

My staff started this process in April 2003, when we held forums for family home providers across the state. The purpose of the forums was to allow providers the opportunity to voice opinions regarding over-regulation, and give suggestions on how some rules could be changed or improved. Following the

family forums, we also met with licensing field staff and other community stakeholders, following the same process to obtain input.

The draft of the revised rules will be posted on the DCCEL Internet site for review sometime this fall. Following that, my staff will review comments received from constituents and stakeholders, incorporate the suggestions that are in line with the division's mission, and then file the proposed chapter with the Office of the Code Reviser. The WAC public hearing will likely be scheduled sometime this winter and the new rules effective by Summer, 2004. I encourage all providers and stakeholders to watch the mail for information as this process continues. In addition, I encourage all persons with access to the Internet to join the DCCEL "listserv," which is a way for you to receive email notification of happenings within the division. You can join the listserv by going to the [DCCEL Internet online services](#) website, click the "DSHS Child Care News" link, and follow the directions to sign up. You can also leave the list from the same page.

Updates to the Guidebooks

The guidebooks for both centers and family homes are outdated. Because of funding and staffing issues and the fact that the rules are being rewritten, we are unable to complete overall revisions at this time. However, my staff have replaced the rules in the current center guidebook with the new WAC. This document was posted on the [DCCEL Internet site](#) the last week in July. You can download the document to your computer and print it, or view it from the Internet. Once the licensing rules have been revised, my staff will complete an overall revision of the guidebooks. This will not be completed until sometime in 2005.

Again, thank you for the time you have spent with my staff to improve our licensing rules, and for everything you do to provide safe and quality child care to children.

The LINK

The Link is a quarterly publication of the Division of Child Care and Early Learning, Economic Services Administration, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), for child care professionals. Send questions, comments, or ideas to the Coordinator, The Link, DSHS/DCCEL, P.O. Box 45480, Olympia, WA 98504-5480.

Deb Bingamen, *Assistant Secretary,
Economic Services Administration*
Rachael Langen, *Director,
DSHS Division of Child Care & Early
Learning*

Leslie Edwards-Hill, *Newsletter Coordinator*
Irene Hopman, *Editor*
Publications Management, *Design*

Ask your LICENSOR

By DCCEL Policy Unit

Question: What must a child care licensor do before taking legal action against your license?

Answer: There may be a time when we must take legal action against your license. Before that happens, your child care licensor must talk with a lawyer for DSHS to make sure this is the best action. (This lawyer is called an “assistant attorney general” or “AAG”). The licensor must show the AAG that there are serious complaints against you or that you have often failed to follow the rules to have a license. The licensor must also show the AAG that he or she has tried to assist you to follow the required rules.

Question: What might happen to my license?

Answer: We may take one of two legal actions against a license:

- To stop your license for a certain time; or
- To end your license.

Question: When may you stop my license for a certain time?

Answer: We may stop your license right away for a certain time when children may be hurt because you are not following the required rules. Examples are:

- When a sex offender is on your property;
- When you cannot quickly fix problems that may hurt a child’s health or safety; and
- When you won’t allow your licensor to look at your home or your records during the time you take care of children.

To stop your license for a certain time, your licensor must talk with his or her supervisor and the AAG. Then, the licensor writes you a letter that gives you

the reasons for stopping your license. The letter must tell you which state laws and rules you have broken. The letter will tell you that you must stop providing care right away. The letter will also tell you what you can do if you don’t agree with our decisions. The licensor’s supervisor signs the letter. The licensor gives you the letter in person.

Question: When may you end my license?

Answer: We do not end your license unless we have worked with you and you still are not following the required rules. If this happens, your licensor will work with the AAG and his or her supervisor to make sure ending your license is the best action. If it is, your licensor will write you a letter, explaining the reason for ending your license. The letter will tell you which state laws and rules you have broken. The letter may tell you that you must stop providing care right away. The letter will also tell you what you can do if you don’t agree with our decisions. We will send this letter to you by mail or deliver it to you in person.

New Service for Providers Coming in Fall

The Economic Services Administration’s Division of Child Care and Early Learning and the Division of Information Technology are working together to develop the Working Connections Information Phone (WCIP). WCIP will give providers basic Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) information through an automated phone system.

Child care providers will be able to hear the following:

- The status (approved, denied, pending, or closed) of a WCCC case and the effective date;
 - What child care services, including the co-payment, are authorized for payment and the dates covered; and
 - Special messages about the WCCC Program.
- To access the Working Connections Child Care Information Phone, you will need:
- Your SSPS Child Care Provider Number (This is the six digit number found on the upper left side of your SSPS Social Service Notice, on your license, or on your SSPS Remittance Notice);
 - Your Employee Identification Number or the last four digits of your Social Security Number, whichever is listed on your license (to set a Personal Identification Number); and
 - The family’s child care application number (This is the 10-digit number found on the right-hand corner of the SSPS Social Service Notice or on the WCCC award letter).

Working Connections Child Care Information Phone will be available 24-hours per day, 7 days per week, and in English and Spanish.

Watch for upcoming information in the mail.

Child Care and Migrant Farm Workers in North Central Washington

By Marion Parkins, Family Home Child Care Licensor, Wenatchee

Anticipation in North Central Washington

Things here in North Central Washington* are heating up. The temperature is rising, as is the anticipation of the first wave of farm workers' children filling our Hispanic child care homes that have had a sparse winter. We should consider it a luxury that we have many more child care slots than we do children to fill them. It hasn't always been this way.

At the Migrant Health Clinic circa 1981

Way back in the day when I was an intern at the Migrant Health Clinic (circa 1981), it was different. I worked in the

WIC program, and we had a traveling clinic that went to rural agricultural areas. We went to the Orondo, Brewster, Peshastin, and Columbia River orchards - to name a few. I remember weighing babies on a scale set up in the trunk of a Chevy Celebrity. The trunk lid shaded the baby, and the floor provided a flat, level surface for the scale.

Many of the babies spent the day out in the orchard with their mothers, often swaddled up against Mom or napping in a baby seat. There were very few child care homes in the rural areas, and even fewer in which Spanish was spoken.

While there may have been some incidents of neglect or injury to children in the orchards, the children I saw were

happy, most of them healthy and well supervised by their parents, aunts, uncles, and close friends.

Safe, Loving, Culturally Relevant Homes and Centers

Although this time of year is incredibly busy and stressful for licensors in our area, I am glad the children of the farm workers can stay in safe, loving and culturally relevant homes or centers while their parents work the harvest. I also feel honored to be part of the process that ensures these homes and centers exist.

*North Central Washington is in the Eastern DCCEL Region.

Richland DCCEL Staff and Community Agency Work Together for Quality Child Care

By Deborah O'Neil,
Licensing Supervisor

RICHLAND - In the midst of budget cuts and terminated programs, the [Division of Child Care and Early Learning in Richland](#) is feeling very fortunate. Why? Because of a community-based program called "Success by Six," which includes a community outreach team. The program is sponsored by the United Way. Team visits are managed by Catholic Family and Child Services. The program assists with parenting and child screening, child development and

setting up constructive child care environments. Over the last 2 1/2 years, due to referrals from DCCEL licensors, the team has assisted 79 child care providers and made 118 visits to provider homes.

The program's outreach team is also used to address issues with provider safety and non-compliance with [minimum licensing requirements](#) ("MLRs").

The specialist visits the provider's home and offers technical assistance to improve their child care environment and business practices. Services are available in both Spanish and English, depending on need.

"The most important thing we do is help support those who are dealing with birth through six age category of children."

Director Debby Barham states, "The most important thing we do is help support those who are dealing with birth through six age category of children. These two groups are the parents and child care providers." Ms. Barham states these two groups "set the tone for the children's lives and it is necessary to help them set up an enriching environment to positively impact the children. We want to help them help their children."

Richland DCCEL staff are thankful for this supportive, grant-based community program that enhances the quality of child care services for the community's children and families.

You can email Deborah at hdeb300@dshs.wa.gov.



Everett DCCEL Collaborates on Week of the Young Child

By Barbara Myers, Licensing Supervisor and Kandi Latimer, Family Child Care Licensor

Saturday, April 12, was the Family Fun Fair event, held at Forest Park in Everett*, from. This event was a celebration in conjunction with the NAEYC-sponsored Week of the Young Child. ("NAEYC" stands for National Association for the Education of Young Children.)

This year's theme was "Children's Opportunities - Our Responsibilities." The local NAEYC affiliate, the Snohomish County Association for the Education of Young Children, collaborated with the Everett Parks Department to sponsor this annual event for children and families. Kandi Latimer, a DCCEL licensor, co-chaired the event with Lori Hall, a child care center director, to bring together local agencies that support children and families in our community.

Among those represented were Headstart, ECEAP (Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program), Campfire USA, a local Latino family center, Volunteers of America Child Care Resource and Referral, Deaconess Children's Services, Compass Health, Community Health Center, the Everett Fire Department, and local co-op preschool programs and child care providers.

Held as an outdoor event, Family Fun Fair offered children and families a variety of entertainment provided by local gymnasts, martial arts programs, dancers, singers, and roving clowns.

The headliner was Linda Severt's "Juggletunes." Linda did a fabulous job of combining physical comedy, singing and juggling, and had children laughing and participating along with her. Each agency had a table and was responsible for providing hands-on activities for children and information for parents. Activities children participated in

included making necklaces out of noodles and cereal, face painting, free books from the Cat in the Hat, popsicle stick picture frames, painting, a gymnastics obstacle course, martial arts, collage art, the "Smoke House" (fire safety education) and much more. DCCEL had a table with playdough and brain-teaser manipulatives, and gave out copies of the "Choosing Child Care" brochure to help parents choose quality child care.

Although it was a damp day, the event attracted more than a thousand participants of all ages. The Everett DCCEL office looks forward to participating in this event again next year! You can email Barbara at myba300@dshs.wa.gov or Kandi at ican300@dshs.wa.gov.

*Everett is in the Northwest DCCEL Region

Health & Safety News

Child Safety Resources available on DSHS Web site

Keeping children safe is one of the Department of Social and Health Services' top priorities. A number of resources, publications, links, and more have been gathered together on the DSHS Web site - [Child Safety Resources](#). These safety materials are available to be printed and shared.

- Tips for intervention
- Online Child Safety Guide
- "Keeping Your Baby Safe"
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, the birth defect that is preventable
- Understanding Child Neglect: Resources for Citizens
- Preview the broadcast-quality 15-second Public Service Announcement video about the EndHarm telephone number. (To view the video you must have Real Player 8 Basic installed on your computer.)

Also on the site is a selection of Child Safety resources for the four leading

causes of accidental child deaths in Washington State.

Posters for each of the following (PDF File)

- water safety
- traffic safety
- fire safety
- gun safety

Brochures for each of the following (PDF File)

- water safety
- traffic safety
- fire safety
- gun safety

Workbooks: (PDF File)

- water safety
- fire safety

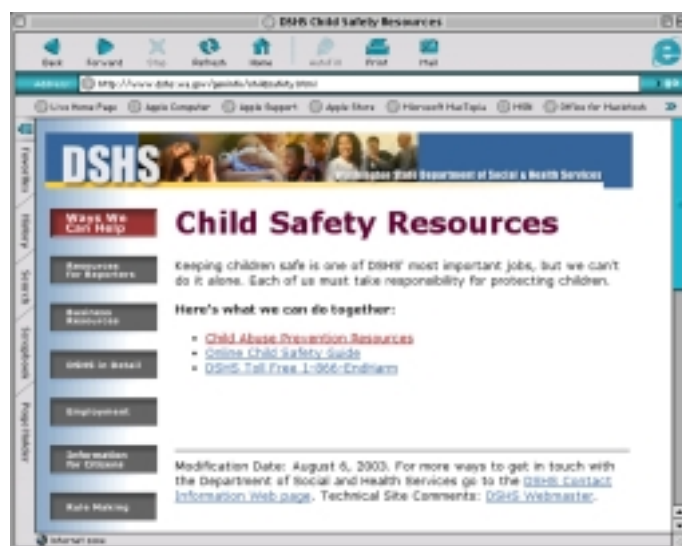
A child safety video on the Home Safety Hunt

"Asking Saves Kids" - a public education campaign for parents

concerned about child injuries or deaths from firearms.

- Tips for new parents in keeping baby safe

If your organization has free resources for fostering child safety that you would like to share on this Web site, send a sample of the resource to Esmeralda Crosson at crosses2@dsht.wa.gov for consideration.



Melanie Brown Wins National Preschool Award

Teacher Melanie Brown of Eatonville Childcare and Preschool was chosen from 450 applicants as a winner in a National Preschool Teacher of the Year contest. Fifty top teachers were awarded grants of \$1000 and can use half of the award for their schools and half for themselves. The contest was sponsored by Tylenol and Terri Lynne Lokoff Child Care Foundation.

Brown has been with the Eatonville child care for four years, working with 4 and 5 year olds in a pre-kindergarten class. She has 18 students at present.

"I had such a hard adjustment to kindergarten myself," Brown said. "I want to make it as easy as possible on kids today." She described her fear on her first day of kindergarten. She had never been away from her mother, with other kids, and had never seen the classroom before. During playtime she clung to a monkey bar for security until an insensitive teacher pulled her off so others could play there and pushed her face up against a cement wall. She never wants a child to go through that type of experience again!

Brown's students are well-prepared

socially, academically, and physically by the time they enter kindergarten, and they visit their kindergarten as a group before their first day of school.

To win the award, Brown wrote about an area she would like to improve: literacy. She described how she would use \$500 to purchase manipulatives, a puppet theater, earphones for literacy games, and flannel board materials.

Editor's note: Information for this article came from the Eatonville Dispatch.